

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A water sorptive product comprising of:
a wet-laid web of a particulate pre-superabsorbent polymer;
neutralization agent;
fiber; and
water;

wherein the particulate pre-superabsorbent polymer, ~~neutralization agent~~, water and the fiber are mixed together form a slurry, wherein said slurry was added to a ~~during the~~ wet-laid process of making a wet-laid web, said water is removed from said slurry to result in a pre-superabsorbent polymer and fiber mixture, said neutralization agent is added to said pre-superabsorbent polymer and fiber mixture, wherein the particulate pre-superabsorbent polymer is neutralized by the neutralization agent to form a superabsorbent polymer and fiber water sorptive product.

2. (Original) The water sorptive product of claim 1, wherein the superabsorbent polymer has a degree of neutralization less than about 80 mol %.

3. (Previously Presented) The water sorptive product of claim 1, wherein the particulate pre-superabsorbent polymer comprising the reaction product of:

- (a) an olefinically-unsaturated acid selected from the group consisting of carboxylic acid, sulfonic acid, and mixtures thereof;
- (b) a compatible co-monomer for the acid of (a); and
- (c) a cross-linking agent;

said reaction product (i) being water insoluble and (ii) having carboxyl groups present therein, which carboxyl groups, when neutralized to their salt form, maintain the polymer as water

insoluble and convert the particulate pre-superabsorbent polymer component into a superabsorbent polymer component.

4. (Original) The water sorptive product of claim 1, wherein the superabsorbent polymer is surface cross-linked.

5. (Previously Presented) The water sorptive product of claim 1, wherein the water sorptive product has a centrifuge retention capacity property above 10 grams/gram.

6. (Previously Presented) The water sorptive product of claim 1, wherein the water sorptive product has an absorbency under load property above about 13 grams/gram at about 20 grams/cm² (about 0.3 psi).

Claims 7-19 (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A wet-laid web comprising:

a particulate pre-superabsorbent polymer;

a neutralizing agent;

fiber; and

water

wherein the ratio of the particulate pre-superabsorbent polymer component to the fibrous component is in the range of from about 90:10 to about 5:95;

wherein the particulate pre-superabsorbent polymer, ~~neutralization agent~~, water and the fiber are mixed together to form a slurry, wherein said slurry was added to a ~~during the~~ wet-laid process of making a wet-laid web, said water is removed from said slurry to result in a pre-

superabsorbent polymer and fiber mixture, said neutralization agent is added to said pre-
superabsorbent polymer and fiber mixture, during the wet-laid process of making a wet-laid web;
and[,]

wherein the particulate pre-superabsorbent polymer is neutralized by the neutralization agent to
form a superabsorbent polymer having a degree of neutralization less than about 80 mol %, ₂
resulting is a superabsorbent polymer and fiber wet-laid.

21. (Previously Presented) The wet-laid web of claim 20 wherein the ratio of the
polymer component to the fibrous component is in the range of from about 30:70 to about 40:60.

22. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article comprising the wet-laid web of
claim 20.